

REMARKS

I. Amendment to the Claims

The amendments to the claims are being made before receipt of any office action on the merits. Accordingly, please enter the following preliminary amendment for Claim No. 16 and consider the following remarks.

The Patent Examiner has concluded that the claims are directed to four (4) species of invention.

II. Provisional Election & Overlap of Species

Applicant provisionally elects Species No. 1 as defined by the Examiner. Claim Nos. 1-17 and 24-32 read on this species. Applicant respectfully submits that the restriction requirement is no longer necessary or proper for Species Nos. 2 and 3 as recited in Claim Nos. 18-20 and Claim Nos. 21-23, respectively.

As the Examiner previously indicated in the Office Action from April 6, 2007, Claim Nos. 1-17 and 24-35 are drawn to priority based messaging in class 709, subclass 207, and applicant submits that this is the generic invention. Applicant previously amended Claim Nos. 18 and 21 to incorporate these aspects of the generic invention into these claims. Therefore, Claim Nos. 18 and 21 are no longer directed to mutually exclusive species that are different from Claim Nos. 1 and 24 but contain additional aspects of the generic invention as recited in claims that depend from Claim Nos. 1 and 24. Applicant previously amended Claim No. 25 and has now amended Claim No. 16 to clearly illustrate the sub-combination aspect of the invention that is also found in Claim Nos. 18 and 20, namely the digital signature. Claim No. 18 also includes

another aspect of the generic invention that is expressly recited in Claim Nos. 12 which is another claim that depends from Claim No. 1.

Conclusion

It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided. Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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